

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

- 5 1. (Presently Amended) A buoyant boom comprising:
an elongate band extending across a water surface;
a plurality of floats having a central axis, each
float being radially symmetric about the central axis, the
band having a portion engaging each float substantially
10 aligned with said axis wherein each float is rotatably
mounted to rotate about the band;
a plurality of rotary bearings disposed between the
floats and the band; and
a plurality of anchors having a first end secured to
15 the band and a second end anchored to a support.
2. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 1
wherein the bearings comprise an annular bushing.
- 20 3. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 2
wherein the bushing includes a radially projecting flange
on an outer end thereof.
4. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 2
25 wherein the bushing is split longitudinally.

5. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 2 wherein the bushing comprises UHMW polyethylene.

6. (Presently Amended) A buoyant boom according to claim
5 [5] 21 wherein the sleeve includes a notched end.

7. (Presently Amended) A buoyant boom according to claim
[5] 21 wherein the sleeve includes a radially extending collar abutting an outer end of the bushing.

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8. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 2 wherein at least one float comprises an elongate tube disposed about the band, and wherein at least one bushing is disposed within the tube.

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9. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 1 wherein at least one float comprises an outer shell with opposing end walls each having an opening through which the band extends.

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10. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 9 wherein the shell is filled with buoyant foam.

11. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 10 wherein the foam comprises polyurethane foam having a
25 density no greater than 2.5 lbs. per cu. ft.

12. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 9 wherein the shell and tube are metal.

13. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 1 wherein the band is selected from components consisting of: metal wire rope; metal chain; metal bar stock; a safety link having tensile capacity less than that of the remainder of the band; a shackle; a wire rope thimble; wire rope clamps ; a spelter socket; chain linkage; twisted fiber rope; and braided rope.
14. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 1 comprising at least one end anchor securing an end of the band to the support.
15. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 1 comprising at least one intermediate anchor securing a middle portion of the band to the support.
16. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 15 wherein said intermediate anchor comprises an anchor float.
17. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 15 wherein said intermediate anchor comprises a metal rod embedded in a grouted hole drilled into said support.
18. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 17 wherein said intermediate anchor comprises a wire rope with a swaged threaded connector and the metal rod has an outer threaded end secured thereto with a splice connector.
19. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 18 wherein said swaged threaded connector, and splice connector are embedded in the grouted hole.

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20. (Original) A buoyant boom according to claim 17 wherein said intermediate anchor comprises a base plate rotatably mounted to an outer end of the metal rod.

21. (New) A buoyant boom according to claim 2 wherein
5 the bearing includes an elongate sleeve disposed between the band and the bushing, and a clamp securing the sleeve to the band to prevent relative movement between the sleeve and band.